

Melbourn
Rural District Council.



R E P O R T

For the Year 1897,

BY

BUSHELL ANNINGSOON, M.D., M.A.,

Cambridge University Lecturer in Medical Jurisprudence,


University Examiner in State Medicine,

*Fellow and Member of the Council and of the Board of Examiners,
Sanitary Institute of Great Britain*

Fellow and Member of the Council Royal Institute of Public Health,

Associate King's College, London, &c., &c.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



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MELBOURN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

I have the honour to communicate for the information of the Rural District Council of Melbourn my Annual Report for the year 1897, and according to my usual practice I first pass in review the vital statistics of the year.

The number of deaths which have been registered in the several parishes is 102; to this must be added those which have occurred outside the district, viz.—three in Addenbrooke’s Hospital, one in Fulbourn Asylum, and ten in the Union Workhouse, respectively, making a corrected total of 116, which on the published Census return of 1891 and the corrections supplied to me by the Superintendent Registrar gives a death-rate from all causes and at all ages per 1000 living per annum of 12·1. The death-rate in England and Wales for the same period is given at 17·4 in the Report of the Registrar General.

Deaths and
Death-rate.

Deaths in the group of zymotic diseases in the district have been from Diarrhœa 1, Whooping Cough 1, total 2; equal to a death-rate from these diseases of 0·20 per thousand living per annum.

Zymotic
Death-rate.

The total number of births registered is 194, equal to a birth-rate of 20·3 per thousand living per annum. The birth-rate for England and Wales for the same period is given at 29·7.

Births and
Birth-rate.

The ratio of deaths under one year of age to one thousand registered births is 77.

District.	Deaths Registered	Share of Workhouse	Addenbrooke's Hospital.	County Asylum.	Total.
Melbourn R.D.C.....	102	10	3	1	116

DISEASE INCIDENCE.

No cases of small pox have engaged attention during the year.

Small Pox.

Fifteen cases of scarlet fever have been notified during the year. One at Foxton early in January, which was the last of a series of cases of the latter part of the previous year. No other case occurred till August when an imported case occurred at

Scarlatina.

Melbourn. The remaining cases occurred at the usual period of greatest incidence, viz., the last three months of the year. Five cases in three households occurred at Bassingbourn. The two families earliest assailed were relatives; there was a history of a visit to the village from Gainsborough of some children in the desquamative stage of scarlet fever; the suggested connexion between this visit and the appearance of the disease in Bassingbourn could not be satisfactorily traced. School exclusion and finally closure for a week, fumigation with thorough cleansing of the School premises were the precautionary measures adopted. A similar series of cases occurred at Steeple Morden, where six cases occurred in three households. Here again there was a history of a presumably affected visitor. In the first house assailed a girl, who had recently been discharged, after 7 weeks' sojourn as a scarlet fever patient at the Fever Hospital at Ponder's End, Middlesex, on her discharge went to stay four days at Finsbury Park Road, and having had a certificate of freedom from infection given her, came down to see her mother at Steeple Morden before returning to her situation. On the 14th September, four days after her arrival her sister and half-brother both presented symptoms of scarlet fever, the rash appearing on the following day; although the time period favours the supposition of infection having been introduced by the visitor, it is difficult to associate the cases as cause and result after the great caution that seems to have been taken; cases of sore throat were stated to have been present in the village, but no verification of this statement could be adduced. A third case followed immediately after the first two and subsequently two other cases in the same household in the early part of November. The precautions adopted were successful in preventing the extension of the disease beyond this household. The sixth case appeared in another household quite the end of December, but infection could not be traced to the former household nor indeed to any source.

A case was notified at Barrington, October 21st, and was undoubtedly imported from Kentish Town.

One case was notified at Guilden Morden, December 23rd, but this was also undoubtedly imported.

Diphtheria.

Two cases of diphtheria were notified, January 1st and 5th, at Thriplow; the persons attacked were sisters, both married and living in separate households; the sanitary condition of the houses was far from good, and may have been a predisposing cause of the attacks. The two women had been nursing, one by day, the other by night, a woman near by recently confined. This latter developed symptoms which must be regarded as puerperal fever, though not notified as such, for there is no proof that the illness was diphtheritic in type, there being no history of membranous discharge, and no history of a

previous case of diphtheria in the house. A niece of the lying-in woman, however, who took the place of one of the sisters in nursing, developed a sore throat subsequently, but it could not be with certainty regarded as diphtheritic. Proper isolation was maintained and the sanitary condition improved and there was no extension of the disease, although young susceptible persons were residing in the house of one of the patients.

One of the children from Stoke Newington, sent down by the Association for providing summer holidays for poor children, lodging with others at a house near the Railway Station at Meldreth, was notified, August 12th, as suffering from diphtheria

days after her arrival, the shortness of the period indicating the inception of the disease before her arrival. This case presented considerable difficulty to the Sanitary Authority, inasmuch as speedy removal to some place of isolation was needful to avoid extension of the disease through that household and possibly into the village, but the Isolation Hospital at the Royston Union Workhouse ground had, by order of the Local Government Board, been rendered unavailable for other than pauper cases. The Board of Guardians were therefore approached and requested through the Relieving Officer to get the girl admitted into the above institution. Whether this measure was wrong or not it was pressingly needful and had the desired result.

One case at Whaddon was attributed to drinking water from a polluted source. This is not a likely cause but no other was discoverable.

Two cases at Shepreth in two separate households could not be satisfactorily accounted for.

No cases of Typhoid Fever have been notified throughout the year. Typhoid Fever.

Disinfection, isolation at home and school exclusion were relied upon to prevent the spread of disease, but in the case of Bassingbourn the School was closed for one week for the cleansing and disinfecting of the school premises.

The Elementary Schools at Wendy were closed by request of the School Managers on account of an epidemic of Influenza.

Although the incidence of zymotic disease has been unusually light during the year under review, such a fortunate circumstance cannot be always expected. I am, therefore glad especially in view of the action of the Local Government Board in disallowing the further use of the building set apart for infectious cases at the Union Workhouse for persons other than paupers, that a Committee of the Council has been appointed to confer with corresponding committees of the Ashwell Rural and Royston Urban District Councils for the formulation of a scheme for a Joint Isolation Hospital.

Isolation
Hospital.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water Supply.

The scheme of Water Supply for the villages of Great and Little Chishall, adverted to in my report for the year 1896, planned and prepared by Mr. Woodward on the lines of my special report, has been submitted to the Local Government Board and having failed to receive their approval has accordingly been remitted to the Committee, which had the question under their consideration.

At Whaddon a new artesian well has been bored and the supply to this village is now fairly satisfactory.

At Shepreth the water supply has been, by the generosity of private persons, improved by the sinking of three new wells to which pumps have been fixed, two near the centre of population, and one at Moor End, which had heretofore been very badly supplied. The water on analysis was found to be of good quality.

Two certificates have been granted under the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878, section 6.

Nine samples of potable water have been taken for analysis; five were found to be of good quality and four unfit for drinking purposes.

DRAINAGE.

Drainage.

At Bassingbourn complaints having been made of foul smells arising from catchpits on the road side the Surveyor has been requested to give greater attention to the cleansing and flushing of the same.

The need of a drainage system for the village of Melbourn has been for a long time urgent, having been the subject of frequent reports since Dr. R. Thorne Thorne's report of 1876.

The drains at the "Bull's Head" were found to be in a very unsatisfactory condition, and have been remedied by the construction of new drains.

At North End, Meldreth, complaints have been made of the drains and ditches and the several owners were requested to comply with the requisitions of the "Enclosure Award," and restore certain disused water courses; and this request was accordingly complied with.

Drains at the Warren, Meldreth, were found on examination to be in a state dangerous to health and were rectified by the construction of new drains and cesspit properly ventilated.

The drainage of the villages of Barrington and Shepreth has been considerably improved by the cleaning out and lowering of the levels of several of the roadside ditches and pipe drains.

A complaint has been made by the Parish Council to the District Council of the state of the roadside drain at Great Chishall, caused by a house being drained into it; notice was served on the owner to divert the said drain and this is about to be carried out.

UNHEALTHY DWELLINGS, &c.

Six cottages near the "Stocks," Meldreth, were found to be very dilapidated, and these on representation of the Inspector of Nuisances, have been thoroughly renovated. Unhealthy Dwellings, &c.

Four cottages in Lower Street, Thriplow, which were found to be dilapidated, have been repaired by the owner.

One cottage, Church Street, Thriplow, was found to be filthy; notice under sec. 46, Public Health Act, 1875, was served upon the occupier, with the result that the cottage is now in good condition.

A cottage near the Milestone, Melbourn, which was found to be dirty and dilapidated, has since been repaired by the owner.

A nuisance at the "Carrier's Arms," Dolphin Lane, caused by leakage from road drain into cellar, has since been abated by the Surveyor by the construction of a new drain bedded in cement.

Complaints have been received from a medical attendant of foul smells in one of the rooms of the "Red House," near the Church, Barrington. On examination I found that this room adjoined the graveyard, graves being situated within 3ft. of the wall, an entire lack of ventilation under the floor, and the joists in a state of "dry rot." This was remedied by the removal of two feet of the subsoil, and the substitution of a layer of concrete, 6in. in depth, new joists and floor, the insertion of ventilating gratings in the outer walls, and the construction of a dry area on the outside of wall near the graveyard.

Two cottages at Brook End, Steeple Morden, which were found to be dilapidated have since been demolished by the owner.

Two milk purveyors, one at Abington Pigotts and the other at Shingay, despatching milk to London, who were found not registered have since made application for registration, which was granted.

Appended hereto are the Inspector of Nuisances' statement of Sanitary work, and the tables of Population, Births, Deaths and Sickness.

BUSHELL ANNINGSO.

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MELBOURN.

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES' REPORT, 1897.

Animals removed	...	...	...	...	2
Certificates under Public Health (Water) Act, 1878, granted					2
Cesspits cleaned out	...	...	...	...	12
Cottages cleansed under Sec. 46, Public Health Act, 1875...					1
„ re-thatched and repaired	...	...	...	...	40
Drains cleaned out and repaired, and dung heaps removed					27
Houses fumigated	...	...	...	...	19
Infected bedding destroyed	...	...	...	...	1
Milk Purveyors registered	...	...	...	...	2
New closets and privies	...	...	...	...	12
„ drains made	...	...	...	...	4
„ houses built	...	...	...	...	2
„ wells sunk	...	...	...	...	5
Notices to repair	...	...	...	...	22
„ abate nuisances	...	...	...	...	50
„ „ overcrowding	...	...	...	...	1
Privy cesspits filled up	...	...	...	...	8
Privies and closets repaired	...	...	...	...	16
Samples of water taken	...	...	...	...	9
Sink drains disconnected	...	...	...	...	3
Travelling vans inspected	...	...	...	...	15
Ventilators to existing drains fixed	...	...	...	...	2
Visits to infectious cases	...	...	...	...	53
„ slaughter houses, bake houses, dairies, and cow sheds	...	...	...	...	52
Watercourses cleaned out	...	...	...	...	7
Wells cleaned out and pumps and fountains repaired	...				3

H. N. WOODWARD,

Inspector of Nuisances.

TABLE A.

Table of Deaths during the year 1897, in the Rural Sanitary District of Melbourne; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

[illegible]

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.

[illegible]

TABLE B.

Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year, 1897, in the Rural Sanitary District of Melbourn; classified according to DISEASES, AGES and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the pur- pose of these statistics; Public Institutions be- ing shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births.	(d)	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.													Number of such Cases Removed from their Homes in the several Localities for Treatment in Isolation Hospital.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																						
	(b)	(a)			FEVERS.						Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas	12	13																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																				
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Melbourn	9558	...	194	Under 5 5 upwards	1	11	4	7</

NOTE.—“ Notification of Infectious Disease ” has been compulsory in the District since 1st March, 1890. There is an Isolation Hospital for the use of the Sick, on the Union Workhouse Ground.
+ Estimate after readjustment of Parish Boundaries.